

Best Management Practices

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



Running Buffalo Clover

Trifolium stoloniferum

Common name • Running Buffalo Clover

Scientific name • *Trifolium stoloniferum*

Federal status • Endangered

State status • Endangered

Ecology

Running buffalo clover was historically widespread from Kansas to West Virginia. In Missouri, running buffalo clover has recently been found in three natural sites and has been reintroduced at a number of sites. The plant favors moist, open woodlands and streambanks. It grows in areas that have a pattern of long-term moderate disturbance such as mowing, trampling or grazing.

Reasons for Decline

Running buffalo clover may have depended on bison to maintain its moderately disturbed habitat, as well as to scarify and disperse seeds. As bison were eliminated, so was suitable habitat and a means of seed dispersal. Other historical causes of decline may include habitat destruction, increased competition from exotic plants, and reduced fire frequency resulting in loss of open woodlands. Running buffalo clover is currently threatened by habitat loss, population isolation, competition from non-native plants, and excessive grazing.

Specific Recommendations

Project activity in the vicinity of known running buffalo clover sites should be consistent with the maintenance of open woodland habitat. Moderate disturbances such as prescribed fire and grazing should be allowed to continue in order to maintain suitable habitat.

→ Do not use any herbicides at running buffalo clover sites unless all of the clover plants are located and spot spraying can be conducted without contacting the clover.

→ Selective harvest of timber is acceptable if clover plants are protected from physical destruction and a partial tree canopy is maintained.

→ Do not mow or otherwise disrupt plants during the period of sexual reproduction (April through August).

Information Contacts

Missouri Department of Conservation, Policy Coordination Section, P.O. Box 180, 2901 W. Truman Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, Telephone: 573/751-4115

Disclaimer

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from other state agencies, contractors, and others to provide guidance to those people who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat. Compliance with Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Other federal, state or local laws may affect construction practices.